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The Romulus News

JANUARY 24, 2003 – FEBRUARY 6, 2003 "the little paper" VOLUME 16 NUMBER 13

Timely Tidbits ...

Hopgood Sworn In

State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D–Taylor) was sworn in as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives on January 8, and has announced the opening of his office in Lansing. Hopgood represents the 22nd District, which encompasses Taylor and Romulus.

"It's time to get down to business," said Hopgood. "With Michigan facing a number of challenges – high unemployment, the outrageous cost of prescription drugs, and the quality of our air, land, and waterways among them – tough choices will have to be made."

According to Hopgood, the 92nd Michigan Legislature will resume session on January 28.

"I look forward to working with Governor Granholm and legislators from both sides of the aisle in finding solutions to Michigan's challenges," he stated. "Our work begins today."

Hopgood's office is in Room S-786 of the Anderson House Office Building. He can be contacted:

- by mail (P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909)
- by phone (517-373-0852)
- by fax (517-373-5934)
- by e-mail (hoon-yunghopgood@house.mi.gov)

Information is also available on the Internet at www.housedems.com.

Preschool Storytime

Children ages three to five who are ready for independent listening, but are not yet enrolled in kindergarten, are invited to take part in the Romulus Public Library's Winter/Spring Storytime program.

Parents can choose between Tuesday evening (7 p.m.) or Thursday morning (10:30 a.m.) sessions. The program runs from February 11/13 to March 18/20.

Although the Storytime sessions are free, advance registration is required. Stop in at the library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall) during normal business hours (Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.) or call 734-942-7589. ❑

Mayor Gives Annual "State of the City" Address

On January 21, Mayor Alan R. Lambert continued a local tradition by delivering his "State of the City" address at the January luncheon of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce.

After opening remarks in which he thanked his fellow elected officials and his department heads for working with him toward the common goal of improving Romulus, Lambert jumped into the subject of the City's finances. He noted that Romulus has shared some of the nation's recent economic woes, but still had positive news to report.

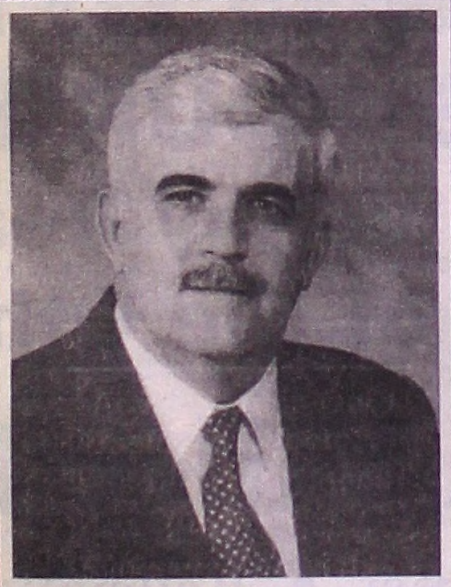
"Even in these hard economic times that have hit our nation and our state, the City of Romulus has made really incredible and verifiable progress toward a prosperous future," the mayor said. "Maintaining our fair share of the airport parking tax serves as a recent example of how this administration has fought on behalf of its citizens.

"At a time when the State House would have written Romulus off from receiving $1 million a year in much-needed tax revenues, members of my leadership team and myself spent a lot of hours on the road, on the phone, and bending the ears of a lot of legislators in Lansing.... The result of our efforts? The State House in Lansing voted in favor of

continued on page 13

During his "State of the City" address, Mayor Alan R. Lambert (center) thanked public safety director Charles Kirby (right) and police officer Tom Ellis for helping him develop "homeland security" measures, especially additional emergency training for Romulus firefighters and police officers.

City Councilman Puts His Faith in the People



Councilman Bill Wadsworth

By Kristi Stephens

It may seem like delicious irony to people who believe that government is an all-too-powerful force in our lives, but at least one elected official is turning from City Hall to the *real* power in America: We, The People.

For years now, Romulus City Councilman Bill Wadsworth has been pursing his dream of a new animal shelter. The current facility, located in a circa-1930s building, is woefully inadequate for the job. But the City budget – always tight – has gotten tighter still, and Wadsworth sees little hope for a government-funded facility in the foreseeable future.

"The economic downturn felt by our nation and state has made a tremendous impact on how every penny of our city government money is ... allocated," Wadsworth stated in a recent "open letter to Romulus residents." (For the entire text of that letter, see page 3.) "There simply are no extra funds that can be spared."

But Wadsworth refuses to give up on his pet project, which he feels is nothing less than a basic necessity for any community of decent, caring people.

"This should not be an excuse ... to do nothing," he wrote. "If we do nothing, many pet-worthy animals will needlessly suffer and die in the weeks and months ahead. If we do nothing, those who work day-in and day-out on behalf of these animals will work in conditions that can only be described as deplorable.

"We, as human beings, are better than this.

"Romulus, as a community, is better than this."

So Wadsworth is taking his case to our city's – indeed, our nation's – greatest source of strength: its citizens. He has the utmost faith in both their power and their compassion.

"I'm appealing to every citizen of Romulus – private and corporate – to make a tax-deductible donation toward the building of a new Romulus Animal Shelter," said Wadsworth. "Please donate whatever you can. Every dollar will make a difference in the lives of these animals and help improve the working conditions of those who care for them."

At Wadsworth's urging, the City has established an account to receive and hold all monies donated for a new shelter, and Wadsworth himself primed the pot with a personal contribution of $500.

Although a few people have expressed doubt about the likelihood of a public appeal raising enough money for such a project, Wadsworth is convinced that they are selling the public short.

"Never doubt that, through personal, tax-deductible donations, we can build a new and improved Romulus Animal Shelter," he admonished. "People – not government or bureaucracies – have the greatest capacity for accomplishing things that otherwise might have been thought impossible."

To make your tax-deductible donation to the new Romulus Animal Shelter, please use the coupon on page 3. ❑

Letter to the Editor

A Very Special New Year Thank-you

The year 2002 was very good to us at the Romulus Senior Center, as we enjoyed several very successful events during that time period. A few of those programs were:

- Fun Fest (80+ participants),
- Christmas Party (100+ fun-seekers),
- Holiday Gala (nearly 200 partiers),
- Flag Day (full house), and
- 9-11 Memorial (75+ patriots).

These programs could not have happened – or would not have been such big successes – without the seniors who participated, the hard-working and dedicated Senior Center staff, our loyal volunteers, and the sponsors who so generously provided us with funds and/or door prizes.

The following is a list of sponsors who have earned our sincere thanks for always being there when needed.

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- Walter's Bar and Grill
- Romulus Middle School
- Countrywood Florist
- Johnston Lithograph, Inc.
- Merriman Street Grill

We hope that the Senior Center will be able to continue its wonderful working relationship with the community in 2003.

Sincerely,
Linda Norman
Programs Coordinator
Romulus Senior Center ❑

The Romulus News

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Guest Commentaries

An Open Letter To Romulus Residents

Dear Romulus Neighbor,

Sometimes you have to leave home in order to discover how truly great your home is. Although I've lived here all my life, it's taken a few recent trips out of town for me to fully rediscover just what kind of community we have here and just how fortunate we all are to have each other as neighbors.

Romulus is a caring and compassionate city. We know each other's names. We watch out for each other's kids. We don't talk about "diversity" – we *live* it. We wave to each other in passing and occasionally send each other a warm, encouraging note, even if that note has only to travel a mile or two via the U.S. Postal Service. Romulus may be geographically located in southeastern Michigan, but we have a lot in common with the smaller towns of northern Michigan. Like these northern Michigan towns, we have a healthy respect for the world of nature and our place in it.

Of the many things that I've come to recognize and appreciate in the people of Romulus is just how much we all care for animals. This is evident not only in the neighbors I see out for an evening walk with the dog, but by the number of people who have, over the years, adopted pets from the Romulus Animal Shelter on Goddard near Wayne Road. If you can tell a lot about human beings by the way they care for animals, then we can take a lot of pride in who we are as residents of Romulus.

Unfortunately, if you've been to the Romulus Animal Shelter over the past several years, it's no doubt that you've seen the continual decay of this small, cramped, leaky, 70-year-old building. Whenever I've been there in recent times, I've always come away with two distinct thoughts:

- The animals deserve better than this.
- We, as a community, can do better than this.

This "open letter" is an appeal to you, the good people of Romulus, for help in getting the necessary funds together to build a new, clean, state-of-the-art Romulus Animal Shelter.

In the past, some of you encouraged me to propose a millage to pay for a new animal shelter. Frankly, I can't, in good conscience, propose such a millage. I believe the people of Romulus already bear too heavy a tax burden.

And, currently, there are no existing city government funds that could singularly be earmarked for the construction of a new animal shelter. The economic downturn felt by our nation and state has made a tremendous impact on how every penny of our city government money is wisely allocated to provide the residents with a variety of services. There simply are no extra funds that can be spared.

However, this should not be an excuse for our community to do nothing. If we do nothing, many pet-worthy animals will needlessly suffer and die in the weeks and months ahead. If we do nothing, those who work day-in and day-out on behalf of these animals will work in conditions that can only be described as deplorable.

We, as human beings, are better than this.

Romulus, as a community, is better than this.

This is why I'm appealing to every citizen of Romulus – private and corporate – to make a tax-deductible donation toward the building of a new Romulus Animal Shelter. Such tax-deductible check donations should be made out to **Romulus Animal Shelter** and sent to:

Romulus City Hall
Treasurer's Office
11111 South Wayne Road
Romulus, MI 48174

Please donate whatever you can. Every dollar will make a difference in the lives of these animals and help improve the working conditions of those who care for them. I've already made my donation, and I know a large number of you reading this appeal have long wondered how you can help the Romulus Animal Shelter. Now you know the way.

One last thing: Never doubt that, through personal, tax-deductible donations, we can build a new and improved Romulus Animal Shelter. People – not government or bureaucracies – have the greatest capacity for accomplishing things that otherwise might have been thought impossible.

Together, we can turn $10 into $100 and $100 into $100,000.

Together, we can do this!

Sincerely yours,
William Wadsworth
Romulus City Councilman ❑

Metro Airport Parking Tax Isn't Perfect, But It's Still a Better Deal for Romulus

by State Senator Raymond E. Basham, 8th District

Sometimes perseverance pays off. With the help of my Democratic colleagues in the Michigan Legislature, I was able to turn a potential disaster into good news for Romulus and Wayne County. In 2001–2002, former Governor John Engler and the rest of the Republicans seemed to insist on sticking it to Romulus and Wayne County.

In 1987, the State Legislature allowed for the collection of a tax on parking within five miles of Detroit Metro Airport. This tax was 30% of the cost to park, and was originally targeted to help the County out of the fiscal crisis that it found itself in.

The County pulled itself out of the deep and continued to use this revenue for the Health Choice insurance program for low-income individuals not eligible for Medicaid and to help fund juvenile justice programs in Wayne County. This program services 355 people in Romulus, and not just the indigent. Many small business that otherwise could not afford to provide health insurance for their employees use the Health Choice program as a tool to recruit first-class employees that otherwise might not consider Wayne County businesses.

The tax also provided approximately $1.2 million to the City of Romulus to help reimburse it for the expenses related to housing Metro Airport within its boundaries.

In 2001, then State Representative and current State Senator Bruce Patterson (R–Canton) introduced a bill to eliminate this parking tax with the backing of Governor Engler. This is a tax that is frequently paid by those who live outside Wayne County, but use Wayne County's airport. This was nothing more than a payback to the Wayne County government, which happens to be comprised primarily of Democrats. At that time, I stood up, along with my Democratic colleagues from across the state, to stop the Republicans from using their position of power as a means to settle political scores. I knew that the elimination of the tax wasn't going to reduce parking rates near the airport; it was simply going to mean that the lot operators would be able to collect more profit on their current parking rates.

Fortunately for Romulus and Wayne County, we were able to negotiate $1.5 million for Romulus and preserve the indigent child care and juvenile justice programs in Wayne County. Moreover, my Republican colleagues agreed to earmark 2% of their cigarette tax increase for the Health Choice program. Thus, the net effect was positive for Romulus and Wayne County.

Wayne County isn't perfect, and the State has a role in overseeing its largest county. Now, though, the Republicans know that they will not be able to settle political scores by hurting my constituents without a fight.

* * *

Editor's note: The "Guest Commentary" column is open to all responsible individuals and spokespersons who would like to share their viewpoint on issues of interest to the residents and business people of Romulus. For more information about submitting a "Guest Commentary" column, contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. ❑

Yes! I want to do my part!

Please accept my donation of $_____ to be used for the construction of a new Romulus Animal Shelter

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Donations are tax deductible.

Donors of $500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of $25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

She *Really* Wants To Keep You Smiling!

Megha Sata, D.D.S.

By Rikki Strobos

Saying you want to keep your customers happy has become cliché in the business world, but there's still at least one professional who really does want to make you smile.

Meet Megha Sata – the new associate at T.L.C. Family Dentistry – who is looking forward to helping you put a healthy grin on your face and then keep it there!

It's no surprise that 27-year-old Megha chose to become a dentist. After all, both her mother and her brother are dentists. You could say it's (cough) in her bones. In fact, she's really just a chip off the old (cough, cough) tooth.

"I'm so excited to be working with her because she's the greatest role model in the world," Megha said of her mom, Kundan Sata, who owns T.L.C. Family Dentistry. "During her 25 years in practice, she has developed a quality of service that is truly exceptional. Our entire staff has adopted her philosophy of Tender Loving Care."

Megha will use the skills that she acquired while earning her Doctorate of Dental Surgery (DDS) Degree from the University of Michigan to help her mother provide the many services offered at their family-practice office. These services range from examinations, cleanings, and cosmetic work to root canals, extractions, and denture-making.

And Megha says she is especially glad that she'll be performing these services in Romulus.

"For years, my mom has been singing the praises of the residents here," she explained. "When your job brings you into contact with people who are kind, considerate, and a pleasure to know, it makes your work even more rewarding."

Megha stays as busy outside the office as she does inside it. Besides reading, running, and teaching dance lessons, she maintains a commitment to community service and to her temple, and also *loves* to travel. That passion has taken her to India, the birthplace of both her parents, half a dozen times. Other "ports of call" have included Greece, Brazil, South Africa, Japan, and China.

Megha's "fifteen minutes of fame" came a little over two years ago, when she appeared as a contestant on the game show *Greed*, hosted by Chuck Woolery. The experience left her $40,000 richer.

T.L.C. Family Dentistry – located at 10000 South Wayne Road just north of I-94 – is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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White To Fill Board Vacancy

The Romulus Community Schools Board of Education has selected Niema White to fill the remaining six months of retiring Board president Billy McCraight's four-year term. White – who has a Bachelor of Science degree from Tennessee State University – is employed as a family and community partnership specialist with the Wayne County Head Start program.

Trustee White is a founder and active supporter of the Romulus Elementary PEP (Parents as Educational Partners) group. She has effectively encouraged parent participation in school activities by surveying parents about their skill strengths and interests, then planning special programs accordingly. The most recent example of the success of her methods was last month's Snowflake Dance, an enjoyable family event that was well attended.

White feels that her experience administering 27 Head Start programs will help her contribute to the continued improvement of district programs and test scores while working within budgetary constraints. She also looks forward to contributing to the educational applications of computers, learning systems, the Internet, and technology.

Niema White

Trustee White feels that family comes first, followed by education. She works carefully with her daughter Averianna, a third-grader in Pia Chasney's class, and believes that an effective partnership between school and home can produce the ideal educational environment for children.

White, her husband Anthony, and their daughter were the first residents of the city's new Gateway subdivision. She is additionally a co-leader for Romulus Elementary's Brownie troop. ❑

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Board Recognizes Retiree's Contributions

Billy and Leota McCraight

On January 13, the Romulus Board of Education presented retiring Board president Billy McCraight with a resolution congratulating him on his many contributions to the education of Romulus children.

Known for using his sense of humor to bring difficult decisions into perspective, McCraight was a truly dedicated Board member who also attended a variety of special programs at the district's schools.

McCraight and his wife Leota, a district bus driver who retired in 2001, plan to use their new free time to travel extensively throughout the southern United States.

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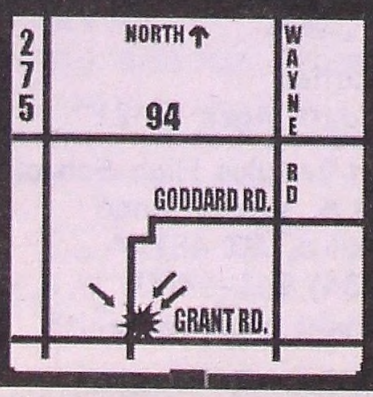

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CMS Achievement Luncheon

Mother Donna and daughter Kelly Jankowski both enjoyed the Romulus/ Belleville Community Middle School luncheon and awards ceremony.

Principal Al Wilkerson was pleased that a large group of parents were able to attend a luncheon honoring the achievements of his Romulus/Belleville Community Middle School students.

Presenters DeAnn Hanlon, Scott Roark, and Mark Robinson awarded certificates for academic and athletic accomplishments, perfect attendance, and outstanding citizenship.

The 21 academic and athletic award winners were: Joshua Anderson, Shaun Borne, Jasmine Davis, Charles Dutton, TiJuan Flowers, Demetrious Fowler, Bryce Harris, Courtney Hicks, Matthew Jablonski, Timothy Johnson, Dylan Kane, Michael Kennedy, Joseph Mouat, Ryan McLaughlin, Ryan Patterson, Tracy Rose, Christopher Terechenok, Alexia Thames, Joseph Vargas, Robert Wallace, and Rhonda Ware.

Perfect attendance awards went to TiJuan Flowers and Tracy Rose.

Outstanding citizenship winners were: Jasmine Davis, TiJuan Flowers, Bryce Harris, Timothy Johnson, Dylan Kane, Ryan McLaughlin, and Tracy Rose.

Principal Wilkerson thanked the parents for supporting their children and for making the effort to spend some quality time with them. He also encouraged his students to keep up the good work in the future. ❑

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Joint Program Honors Dr. King

A trio of special events commemorating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a huge success, thanks to the joint efforts of the Romulus Community Schools and the City of Romulus.

The morning of celebration, held on January 20, began at 8:30 a.m. with the second annual Walk for Warmth – a community march from Romulus Middle School to Romulus High School. Walk participants – a group of 200+ residents, local dignitaries, and school and city employees joined by local clergy members and 30 students from Community High School – donated hats, gloves, and blankets to be distributed by the Helping Hand of Romulus.

After a short break for a continental breakfast, the marchers and other community members – more than 500 in all – were invited into the High School auditorium for a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day commemorative program. Joel R. Carr, superintendent of schools, was joined by Mayor Alan R. Lambert and U.S. Congressman John Dingell in welcoming the many guests.

The program featured remarks of reflection and inspiration by Reverend Arthur Willis of the Pentecostal Baptist Church and Reverend William Kren of Community United Methodist Church, as well as tributes of dance, music, and poetry.

Musical selections were very effectively presented by:

- Deborah Street, who sang a medley of "America the Beautiful" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic";
- Norbert Glover, who performed an especially spirited gospel medley; and
- the Romulus High School Band, under the direction of Henry James.

Other highlights included:

- RHS students Meghan Conway and Della Hamby, who performed an original dance to "Amazing Grace";
- a group of students from Romulus Elementary leading the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance"; and
- a recitation of meaningful poetic passages by students from Cory Elementary (Cierra Cohen and Cieara Franklin) and Merriman Elementary.

Dorothy West of Barth Elementary then introduced a very effective historic video about the life of Dr. King. Excerpts from several of his famous speeches concluded the program, inspiring the audience to work toward the realization of Dr. King's dream.

For photos of march, breakfast, and commemorative program participants, please see pages 8 and 9. ❑

MLK, Jr. Celebration

Some of the participants in the second annual Walk for Warmth lined up in front of Romulus Middle School before beginning their trek to the High School.

Among the many dignitaries who attended the commemorative program following the march were (from left) Superintendent Joel R. Carr, Romulus Community Schools; Mayor Alan R. Lambert, City of Romulus; and U.S. Congressman John Dingell.

Others joining Mayor Lambert (second from right) and Superintendent Carr (right) at the commemorative program included (from left) Romulus City Council Chairman Randy Gear, State Senator Ray Basham, and State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood.

Newly selected Romulus Board of Education trustee Niema White (left) and acting Board president Betty Lenossi were also among those present for the festivities.

City Council Chairman Gear (right) shared the delicious pre-program continental breakfast with Ronald Buckley and Board secretary Cheryle Buckley.

MLK, Jr. Celebration

Board trustee Michael Woods (third from left) and former RHS security guard Alice Gilbert visited with Romulus police officers (from left) Damian Hull, Darin Shelby, Mike Jones, and Tom Ellis after the Walk for Warmth.

Students from Romulus Elementary School kicked off the program commemorating Dr. King's work by leading the audience in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Romulus Community High staff members and students joined principal Al Wilkerson (back, second from left) for both the march and the following program.

(From left) Rev. Arthur Willis (Pentecostal Baptist Church) and Rev. William Kren (Community United Methodist Church) delivered reflective remarks. Also present was Rev. Bruce Haltom (Ball Road Tabernacle).

Local residents who braved the cold temperatures to complete the march included (from left) Eleanor Green, Christine Anderson, and Betty Martin.

Cory Elementary School students who recited a special poem for the event were Cierra Cohen (left) and Cieara Franklin.

Holiday Concerts

Excited to play in their schools' holiday concert were Merriman and Halecreek band students (from left) Brian Jones, Corey Arnett, Jordan Farmer, Jazmine Bass, Michal Issacs, and Jessica Morgan.

Holiday performers from the Cory Concert Band included: (from left) front – James Wells, Jaravea Greer, Megan Lawrence, and Emmanuel Sanders; back – Amber Sears, Kaela Torres, Melissa Dufore, and Nicole Siemaszko.

Romulus High School Concert Band members like (from left) Tiffany Claiborne, Merrika Brown, Brittni Brown, Monica Wells, Katie Appel, Cecily Ricer, Landria Buckley, and Myleah Jones were in a festive mood before their holiday performance in the newly refurbished RHS auditorium.

Wrestlers Excel At Royal Invitational

Several Romulus High School wrestlers achieved high finishes at the recent 16-team Romulus Royal Wrestling Tournament. Leading the way was Chris Anderson (center), who won the 125-pound championship and was voted the meet's outstanding lower-weight wrestler. Additional wrestlers and their finishes included (from left) Robbie Ray (sixth place at 103 pounds), Matt Mortzfield (third place at 130), and Jamie Henne (sixth place at 135). Head coach Jason Balcom is pictured at right.

Barth Accepts Golden Apple

Principal Diane Golka, fourth-grade teacher Carol Gursky, and fifth-grade teacher Gerilyn Kline represented Barth Elementary at a regional presentation of the State of Michigan's Golden Apple Awards, held at the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency building on December 12, 2002. Barth was one of only 72 schools in southeastern Michigan – and one of only 127 statewide – to win the prestigious award.

Principal Golka was pleased to accept the award on behalf of all her students, parents, and staff.

"We really work together and have a team approach that encourages achievement at our school," said Golka.

She was particularly proud that Barth was one of only three schools at the regional presentation to receive the Golden Apple Award in two consecutive years.

To win a Golden Apple Award, a school has to improve its MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) scores in the four basic areas of math, science, reading, and writing by a combined 60 points or more compared to its scores from three years before. This is a very difficult goal to reach, as evidenced by the low number of schools that qualify each year.

Schools can use their award money for any project that the staff feels will enhance the educational environment in their building.

Last year, Barth used part of its $50,000 prize to purchase voice amplification systems for each classroom. The units allow both the teacher and the students to hear each other better during class instruction periods, and also help students maintain their concentration levels throughout the school day.

Principal Diane Golka (center), fourth-grade teacher Carol Gursky (left), and fifth-grade teacher Gerilyn Kline proudly show off Barth Elementary School's second consecutive State of Michigan Golden Apple Award for significantly improved MEAP scores.

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Cory Students Honor Fishettes

Two of the Romulus Community Schools' now famous "Fishettes" – Sheila Morgan and Carole Bales (front, third and fourth from left) – were recognized for their spirited motivational presentations by Cory fourth-grade teachers Dawn Pluff (back, left) and Cynthia Price (back, right) as well as their students: (from left) front – Deshar Dinkins, Les'cia Watkins, Lakisha Foreman, and Brittany Glenn; back – Keya Cummings, Jonathan Stone, Tiffany Cummings, and Shakeim Higgins.

Cory Elementary fourth-graders from the classrooms of Dawn Pluff and Cynthia Price stole a page from the book of the Romulus school district's "Fishettes" by hosting a special recognition program for two of the motivational group's most active members – Carole Bales and Sheila Morgan – and "making their day." The idea of making someone's day special is one of the *Fish!* philosophy's four basic tenets, along with "be there," "choose your attitude," and "play."

Students said they got the idea for honoring the Fishettes after seeing one of their now-famous motivational presentations at Cory.

"We really had a good time learning about the *Fish!* philosophy, and we couldn't wait to 'make someone's day,'" said Cory student Deshar Dinkins.

The students presented Bales and Morgan with a number of special gifts, including collages of pictures taken when the "Fishettes" made their presentation at Cory.

"Our students really worked hard to sort out the best pictures from each of the four parts of the presentation and attractively mount them onto poster boards," said Pluff.

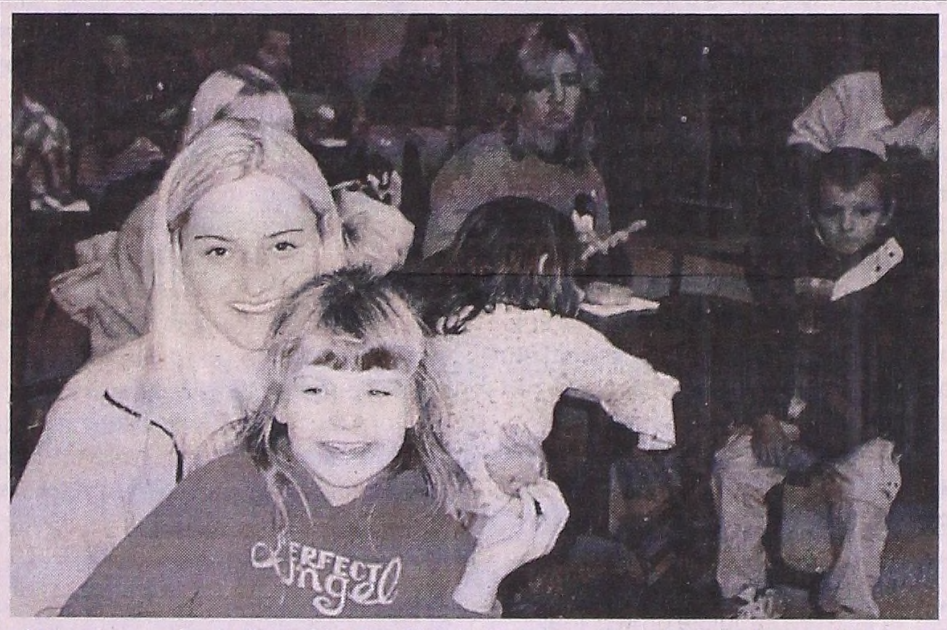
Bales, executive secretary to superintendent Joel R. Carr, noted, "We were impressed by the good work, seriousness of purpose, and dedication shown by Cory students. It was really nice of them to take the time to invite us back and present us with their special mementos." ❑

Romulus Hires New District Nurse

Jeffrey Royal (left), director of special services, enjoyed a recent opportunity to get acquainted with the new district nurse, Carol Wolan (right). Lorraine Wilkerson, systems/student services manager, was also on hand to explain the intricacies of the new "Zangle" system, and how student health records are recorded and retrieved. Nurse Wolan comes to Romulus from the Wyandotte schools, where she held a similar position.

Muffins for Moms

Mrs. Diebel and her children – (from left) Mark, Arianna, Measha, and Albert – enjoyed Halecreek Elementary School's "Muffins for Moms" celebration.



Attendees – including Shelby Mitchell and her mom, Stephanie Mitchell – really enjoyed the program, which was organized by volunteer dads Larry Baxter, Gil Damron, and Jim Poet.

John Bouldes and his mom, Joyua Bouldes, were also among the 200+ people who took part in this special event.

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REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 9, 2002

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, December 9, 2002, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Billy McCraight.

Roll call showed members McCraight, Betty Lenossi, Cheryle Buckley, April Frayer, Michael Woods, Celeste Roscoe, and Kenneth Mientkiewicz present. Administrators Joel R. Carr, Edward Clark, William Routhier, and Tom Dolan were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President McCraight.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, requested that the Agenda be amended to include Item B (1) Resolution: Refunding of Bonds.

12/02/1 Moved by Frayer supported by Lenossi to approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

12/02/2 Moved by Frayer supported by Buckley to approve the Minutes of November 25, 2002, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

There were no personnel actions.

Bills for Payment

12/02/3 Moved by Frayer supported by Lenossi to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Refunding of Bonds

12/02/4 Moved by Lenossi supported by Mientkiewicz to approve the Resolution for Refunding of 1993 Bonds as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Presentation: Service Learning

Mrs. Kathy Hurst, Coordinator of Service Learning, presented an update to the Board of Education relative to service learning. "Learning To Give Is Cool" was the topic, and Mrs. Hurst shared with the Board highlights of projects being undertaken throughout the school district.

Board Member Selection Procedure

Consensus of the Board was unanimous that applications for vacancy on the Board of Education would be taken until 4:00 p.m. on January 10, 2003, and then interviews would be held at the regular meeting of the Board on January 13, 2003, at 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Change

12/02/5 Moved by Woods supported by Frayer to move the Board meeting of January 13, 2003, from Barth Elementary School to the Board office. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

Mrs. Debbie Dick asked about the status of filling the vacancy of the school nurse. Mr. Joel R. Carr, superintendent, stated that a nurse had just been interviewed and scheduled to start the first of the year.

Mr. Carr also stated that rumors regarding a funding cut for the Romulus Adolescent Health Center were untrue; no funding for the Romulus program has been cut by the State of Michigan.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) The Merriman Star Newsletter; 2) District/School Community Minutes; 3) Coach of the Year – Rhonda McAllister; 4) Romulus Elementary School Newsletter; 5) Romulus Middle School Newsletter; 6) Thank You to Fishettes from Dawn Pluff and Cynthia Price; 7) Halecreek Elementary School Newsletter; 8) Parent Newsletter – Romulus High School; 9) Wick Elementary School Newsletter; and 10) Science Fair/Night – Wick Elementary School.

Questions and Concerns of Board Members

Mr. Ken Mientkiewicz mentioned Ms. Rhonda McAllister being named Mega League Coach of the Year, and stated that the first boys' basketball game was scheduled for December 10, 2002, at home.

Mrs. Betty Lenossi thanked the committee for a job well done on the pool dedication, and gave special thanks to the culinary arts department and its students for doing such a fabulous job.

Mr. Joel R. Carr and Board of Education members expressed appreciation to Mr. Billy McCraight for his service on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

12/02/6 Moved by Frayer supported by Lenossi that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryle Buckley, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

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Community Calendar

- **Open Swimming** – Open swimming will be offered at Romulus High School's new pool complex (located at 9650 South Wayne Road, just north of I-94) from 6 to 8:30 p.m. according to the following schedule: ***Adults Only*** (Mondays), ***Seniors (age 60+) Only*** (Tuesdays), ***Teens (ages 13–17) Only*** (Wednesdays), and ***Family Swimming*** (Fridays). To participate, all swimmers *must* preregister at the Romulus Adult and Community Education Office, located at 39000 Superior. Cost for residents is $3 per session ($2 for senior citizens) or $60 for an all-year pass ($40 for senior citizens). Family passes – a real bargain! – are available to Romulus residents for just $100 per year. For more information, call 734-532-1953.
- **"Just You & Me" Parent/Child Program** – Late registrations are still being accepted for the Huron Countryside Co-operative Nursery's "Just You & Me" Parent/Child program, which began on January 8. Classes are held at the Nursery (located in St. Paul Lutheran Church at 19109 Craig Street, New Boston) each Wednesday from 10 to 11:15 a.m.; a possible second class could meet Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. In order to be eligible for participation, children must be three years old by December 1, 2003. Cost is $60 per parent/child couple. For more information, call 734-941-0008.
- **Cat Show** – An exhibition of 300 pedigreed cats and kittens – including Turkish Vans, Norwegian Forest Cats, Exotics, Main Coons, Oriental Shorthairs, and Sphynx – will be held at Ford Community Center for the Performing Arts (15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn) on Saturday and Sunday, January 25–26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults; $4 for senior citizens; $3 for children ages five and up; free for children four and under. A portion of the admissions proceeds will benefit the Michigan Animal Rescue League. Call Judy McDaniels (248-681-4863) for more info.
- **AAU Basketball Tryouts** – The Future Youth Travel Basketball Team is looking for seventh- and eighth-grade boys (ages 13–14) interested in playing in tournaments. Tryouts will be held at Romulus Elementary School (located at 32200 Beverly Road) on February 7, 14, and 28 according to the following schedule: last names beginning with A–K, 4 to 6 p.m.; last names beginning with L–Z, 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. (Note: Students are asked to arrive at least 10 minutes before their scheduled tryout time.) For more information, or to obtain a registration form, call Coach Green at 734-941-2057.
- **Chamber to Host Silent Auction/Wine-tasting/Dinner** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host its fourth annual Silent Auction and Wine-tasting/Dinner on Friday, February 14, at the Doubletree Hotel in Romulus. Tickets ($30 per person) are available from board members or the Chamber office. Call Karen Bell, executive assistant, at 734-326-4290. (Note: Donations of items for the auction are welcomed and appreciated.)
- **Cable Commission Meeting** – The next meeting of the Romulus Cable Commission will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, at Goddard Road). The meeting will be televised on cable channel 12.
- **Historical Society Welcomes New Members** – The Romulus Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting on February 19) at the Romulus Historical Museum (on Hunt St. next to the Post Office). New members are welcome.
- **Healthy Living Committee** – The Romulus Healthy Living Committee will meet at Romulus Adolescent Health Center in Romulus High School (located at 9650 South Wayne Road, just north of I-94) from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 20. For more information, please call Diane Vidovic, RAHC director, at 734-941-1400.
- **Mother's Morning Out** – Ball Road Tabernacle invites you to drop off your children (ages 2 to 5) for a program of play time, stories, crafts, and lunch, while you enjoy a morning free to run errands. The service is available at the church (located on the corner of Ecorse and Ball roads, west of Merriman) each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 734-722-9638.
- **Eating-disorder Support Group** – People who suffer from disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive eating can attend support-group meetings at St. Paul Lutheran Church (2550 Edsel Drive, Trenton) each Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 734-324-3089.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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Mayor Gives "State of the City" Address

continued from page 1

Romulus receiving $1.5 million in airport parking tax revenues – $500,000 more than last year."

Noting that further economic growth is the key to lightening residents' current tax burden, the mayor pointed out several strategies employed by his administration to draw developers to Romulus. Among his comments on the subject:

"Last year, we demolished over ten blighted buildings within a two-mile radius of downtown Romulus. This achievement makes the downtown area more attractive to developers ready to bring economic vitality to the area through retail shopping, dining, and entertainment."

He also stated, "Over ten road construction projects are now happening or will begin in the spring of this year. ... This should give you a pretty good idea of how we are literally laying the groundwork for a new and improved Romulus. Infrastructure projects like this not only serve you better – they increase development opportunities."

And on the controversial subject of the joint City-County improvement of Eureka Road, Lambert said, "Approval of this project through City Council was tough – and rightfully so. I mean, the history between the City and Wayne County has been combative, at best. And now we were proposing a joint road project with Wayne County. That's kind of like Luke Skywalker joining Darth Vader on 'The Dark Side.'

"But the fact of the matter is: Completion of our Eureka Road project only serves to make the surrounding available land more attractive to developers. We may be digging dirt and pouring concrete with Darth Vader at our side, but this project creates real opportunities for real and tangible growth that will benefit us all."

Along with his push toward a full-service fire department with its own emergency medical capabilities, Lambert believes that one of his administration's single biggest achievements has been a push toward better customer service through technology.

"Imagine if your business didn't have a phone system with voice-mail, or computers with e-mail and software that automatically managed transactions and gave timely, accurate reports. Imagine not being able to access the Internet and use the wealth of information available on it. And imagine if one department didn't know what another department was doing on a project they both shared.

"This has been the situation for too long in Romulus city government. I've set a course to raise the level of service we provide our residences – and, frankly, raise the level of departmental and employee performance – through new technology. So far, we are in the process of implementing a new phone system, new computer networking, state-of-the-art software, and a dynamic new City Website – all of this to better serve you, and to prepare us for further residential and business growth."

The mayor closed his address with a reference to recent TV news broadcasts intimating that Romulus is being considered as one of four possible locations for a new casino.

"Let me just say this: I will talk to *any* developer who has a good, well-thought-out plan for bringing a quality business to this area. I will talk to *any* developer who is willing to contribute to our tax base and help ease the tax burden our citizens have carried for years. And I will make and serve coffee to *any* developer willing to positively contribute to our community without changing the positive character of our community.

"Does this mean I will talk to Indian casino developers interested in growing their business in Romulus? Absolutely. Does this mean I am willing to compromise the character of our community for a casino? Absolutely not."

Lambert said that the next three years are going to be an exciting adventure, and he looks forward to working with the community toward our common goal of making Romulus even better. ❑

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Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-942-6852.)

Free Tax Preparation

From February 5 through April 9, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons will be available at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. (by appointment only) to assist low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older) with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as forms for homestead property tax credits, home-heating credits, and prescription credits.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call or stop in at the Center.

Bianco Travel Party

A representative from Bianco Tours will be at the Romulus Senior Center on Friday, January 31, at 1 p.m. Refreshments and door prizes will highlight a presentation on these and other exciting trips:

- Toronto (*The Lion King* and *Mamma Mia*)
- Atlantic City
- Casino Niagara
- Biloxi

Advance registration is requested to allow planning for refreshments and to prevent cancellation. Sign up at the Center.

Preventing the Exploitation of Seniors

Officer Damian Hull from the Romulus Police Department will be at the Senior Center on Thursday, February 6, beginning at 10 a.m., to talk with seniors about new laws pertaining to the exploitation of senior citizens. Light refreshments will be served.

Shopping

Romulus senior citizens are invited to ride the Center's van to shop at the following location:

- Kmart – Monday, January 27; van departs at 9:30 a.m.

Cost of transportation is just $1.50 per person.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman.

- ***Soaring Eagle Casino*** (February 20; $30);
- ***Point Edward Charity Casino*** (February 26; $15);
- ***Casino Niagara*** (March 1–2; $95);
- ***Toronto (The Lion King and Mamma Mia)*** (April 22–23; $335); and
- ***Alaskan Cruise*** (August 20–September 1).

Note: Deposits – due at the time of sign-up – reserve your seat. For day trips, full payment is due at least two weeks before departure. For overnight trips, full payment is due a minimum of 30 days before departure.

Weekly Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- Ceramics (Mondays, 1 and 6 p.m.),
- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Computers, Internet Service Available

Just a reminder that seniors who need access to a computer to learn or practice new skills may use the computers at the Romulus Senior Center, free of charge. Internet service is also available. Appointments are strongly advised.

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, January 27, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable ($5) program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

Chore Service

Are you in need of yard work and/or minor home repairs? If so, call the Romulus Senior Center and find out if you qualify for a free chore-service program.

TeleCare Program Available

The Romulus Senior Center's TeleCare program provides seniors with daily phone reassurance at no cost. To learn more, call the Center's friendly staff.

Hot Lunches

Just a reminder that the Center serves a hot lunch each weekday for $1.75. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation. ❑

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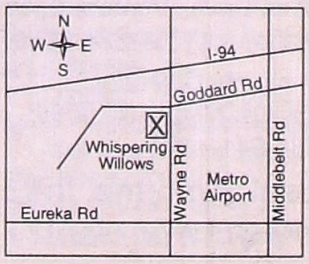

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Obituary Notices

Robert Marvin Johnson

Robert Marvin Johnson, age 68, of Menasha, Wisconsin, died on Saturday, January 11, 2003.

Robert was born in Neenah on November 17, 1934, to the late Reginald and Lucille (Romnek) Johnson. He was associated with the Salvation Army for over 25 years, serving the last 5 years in Romulus, Michigan.

Robert's survivors include two daughters, Linda (David) Young (Neenah) and Cindy (David) Maltbey (Bonduel, WI); a son, Duane (Cindy) Johnson (Menasha); five grandchildren, Jason (Denise), Josh, Jessica (special friend, Kevin), Amie, and Michael; a sister, Louise; two brothers, Reggie and Bill; his former wife, Renee Stockman; many nieces and nephews; and his special friends, the Wilkins family.

Predeceasing him were his sister Viola and his brother Leo.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, January 15, at the Wichmann Funeral Home (Appleton, WI), with Major Larry Cowper of the Salvation Army officiating.

God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not to be. So he put His arms around you and whispered, "Come to me." With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us: He only takes the best.

– from the family

The depth of my pain doesn't show that I'm crying inside as well as out. I know how much you loved me – as much as I loved you – and each time I think of you, I know I'll miss you. But when tomorrow starts without you, I'll understand that an angel came and took you to your castle in the sky with your Martha Stewart bathroom.

– from Josh

Hazel L. Dubke

Hazel L. Dubke of New Boston, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, January 9, 2003, at the age of 91.

The native of Detroit, Michigan, was born on March 7, 1911.

Hazel is survived by 3 sons, Clifford L. (Orange, TX), Russell M. (Huron Township, MI), and Lester B. Dubke (Warrick, RI); a sister, Virginia Cartwright (Detroit); 8 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Among those predeceasing her were her husband, Louis Dubke (1987), and two brothers, Mark and Bernard Bailey.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 15, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Pastor Robert J. White (Grace Baptist Church, Belleville, MI) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Donna L. Newman

Donna L. Newman of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Friday, January 10, 2003. She was 59 years old.

Donna – a member of the First Baptist Church (Dearborn, MI) who enjoyed ceramics – was born on June 28, 1943.

Among those surviving Donna are her husband, Forrest R. Newman; a daughter, Ericka Killingbeck (Westland, MI); a brother, Richard Seidner (Livonia, MI); a sister, Sherrie E. Rickard (Redford, MI); and two grandsons, Douglas L. Gilbert (Westland) and Daniel R. Killingbeck (Westland).

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, January 14, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Dan Buttry (First Baptist Church) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. ❑

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
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Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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